

Brief Description of the Drawings

Notwithstanding any other forms, which may fall within the scope or the present invention, preferred forms of the invention will now be described with reference to the accompanying drawing. The figure is not necessarily to scale, some features may be exaggerated or minimized to show details of particular components. Therefore, specific structural and functional details disclosed herein are not to be interpreted as limiting, but merely as a basis for the claims and as a representative basis for teaching one skilled in the art to variously employ the present invention. in which:

Figure 1 is a schematic perspective view of an optical fiber according to the present invention.

Please replace the paragraph at page 8, lines 17 - 24 with the following paragraph to provide description for the drawing submitted to overcome objection to the present application.

Referring to Figure 1, the present invention provides a coated optical fiber **10** preferably a GGP optical fiber comprising an optical fiber core **20** and a silica cladding **22** over the optical fiber core. A permanent polymeric coating **24** is applied to the silica cladding **22** during exposure to actinic radiation of a photocurable composition containing a non-hydrolyzable photoinitiator. The coated glass fiber, as a fine filament, has an outer diameter less than 160 microns and preferably less than about 130 microns, while maintaining strength characteristics comparable to coated optical fibers twice its diameter. Under the force of bending stress, a coated optical fiber according to the present invention survives a 6mm (0.25 inch) radius bend. Other beneficial properties include resistance to abrasion, and insertion and attachment without stripping, for retention in optical fiber connectors. Although there are no outer buffer coats to strip, secure attachment of a fiber to a connector usually requires an adhesive.

Conclusion

Applicants recognize that prosecution on the merits is closed and gratefully acknowledge notification of allowance of claims 1 - 21.

With provision of the required drawing, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Request is respectfully made for reconsideration and transmittal of a Notice of Allowance for the application.

Please charge Deposit Account 13-3723 any amounts due and owing by reason of this response. For further questions, please contact Applicant's agent who may be reached at telephone number (512) 984-5258.

Respectfully submitted,

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